

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 29.16
TITLE: CHEMONUCLEOLYSIS

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2)(i)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

October 12, 1984

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

00634, 62292, 63005

III. DESCRIPTION

The dissolution of the nucleus pulposus of an intervertebral disk by injection of a chemolytic agent, e.g., the enzyme chymopapain, used especially in the treatment of herniation of a disk.

IV. POLICY

Chemonucleolysis utilizing chymopapain is covered only for the treatment of patients with documented herniated lumbar intervertebral discs whose signs and symptoms have not responded to conservative therapy over an adequate period of time.

V. EXCLUSIONS

A. Chemonucleolysis utilizing chymopapain in the treatment of herniated discs in areas other than the lumbar spine.

B. Chemonucleolysis utilizing any similar substance, other than chymopapain, in any area of the spine.

END OF POLICY